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HISTORY of WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION BUNCOMBE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



1908-1986

HISTORY OF WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

OF

BUNCOMBE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Miss Pauline Snelson

With research by the
WMU Historical Committee

Celebrating the Centennial
of the
North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union

Asheville, North Carolina

1986

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PREFACE

During the year of 1986, the Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina is celebrating 100 years of organized work. The purpose of this year-long Centennial celebration, as planned by North Carolina State WMU leaders, is threefold:

1. To look *backward*, discovering in our beginnings the vision, faith and wisdom of courageous women whose devoted service laid an enduring foundation.

2. To look *forward*, discerning our work for the year ahead, and committing ourselves to wise planning and faithful performance in the continuing missionary task.

3. To look *upward* to God, admitting our need, seeking to do His will, and willing to follow where He leads.

As a part of this state-wide celebration, the history of Buncombe Baptist Woman's Missionary Union has been researched and this history has been written by Miss Pauline Snelson, Associational WMU Director. Those assisting in the preparation of this history were the WMU Historical Committee.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE:

Pauline Snelson
Martha Hicks
Ruth Smith
Doris Plemmons
Zelma Barnes
Betty Orr

48-12-0

The first meeting of the Buncombe Baptist Association was held at Flat Creek Baptist Church, September 5, 6, 7, 1882. Eleven churches sent letters to this first meeting.

The Baptists of North Carolina were divided into several conventions in the early days, possibly because of transportation. The Buncombe Association was in the Western North Carolina Convention.

Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina was organized January 8, 1886 with Miss Fannie E. S. Heck as first president. At this time there were already 14 existing societies. One year later there were 71 societies and the mission offering doubled. In the early 1800's there were "female mite societies." In 1877 a woman's central committee was appointed but criticism arose among the men and it only lasted a few months.

The earliest association minutes on file in the office of the Buncombe Association is that of 1886. The minutes from 1882 and each additional year are on file with the Historical Society in Wake Forest. No women's work is mentioned in the 1886 minutes, but in the 1904 minutes a report is written on "Woman's Work" and signed by three men: J. H. Tucker, chairman, J. A. Brendell and F. M. Pressley.

A quote from this report: "The Baptist women of the South are desirous of stimulating a missionary spirit and the grace of giving among the women and children of the churches, and of aiding in the collection of funds for missionary purposes. They have organized themselves into a Woman's Missionary Union."

"The women of Buncombe, when informed, will want a part in the salvation of the world. Organize, dear sisters, and let the force of your influence be felt for the Lord."

In the 1905 minutes another report on "Woman's Work" was submitted by the M.R.N. Caldwell Committee. The report encouraged women of Buncombe to organize WMU work.

In the history of Buncombe Association, written in 1982, it is stated that in 1908 the associational WMU was organized at the Buncombe Association meeting at the Jupiter Baptist Church.

We do not know who served as WMU superintendent in the early years. The 1920-21 minutes gave a WMU report signed by Mrs. J. R. Baird, paying tribute to the "faithful associational superintendent, Miss Annie Logan."

The WMU work was showing growth by 1920, both in organizations and gifts to missions. There was a total of 52 organizations at this time: 28 WMS's, 5 YWA's, 7 GA's, 2 RA's and 11 Sunbeam Bands. The 1920 report reflected mission study activity. Using the Standard of Excellence as their goal, 65 mission study certificates and 76 seals for extra books studied were earned.

Miss Annie Logan offered her services to help organize new societies in any church who would invite her. There were still 18 churches without a missions organization.

The 75 Million Campaign was in progress in 1920. A total of \$11,851.47 was contributed that year.

In the 1921-22 minutes the report of Women's Work was given by A. E. Brown, historian, along with reports of Sunday School and Baptist Young People's Union. It showed a decrease of three in WMU's but an increase in gifts. Although there was a slight decrease in numbers of WMS organizations, there was an increase in YWA's, GA's, RA's and Sunbeams. The total membership in 1922 was 1,131 or an increase of 95 over the last year.

Miss Logan appealed to the pastors to encourage women to organize societies. The report for 1923-24 stated that the apportionment of Buncombe Association to the 75 Million Campaign was \$40,000. At that time they had overpaid this by \$27,152.78 or a total of \$67,152.78. Miss Logan stated that she was still not satisfied as some had not paid all their pledge. People of Buncombe Association had pledged more than the state had apportioned!

It is well to note that in 1925 the WMS report stated that Buncombe Association led the state in the number of WMU mission study awards.

In 1925 the WMU of Buncombe Association held an annual session at Black Mountain Baptist Church with Miss Annie Logan presiding. There were 150 delegates and many visitors present. A full slate of new officers were elected. They were Miss Amy Carter, Superintendent; Mrs. Frank Killian, Associate Superin-

tendent; Mrs. J. G. Greenwood, Associate Superintendent; Mrs. L. T. Freeman, Young People's Leader; Mrs. Alice Vance, Secretary; Mrs. J. G. Terrell, Treasurer. Miss Annie Logan tendered her resignation after 13 years, to become Superintendent of the Asheville Division.

The 1926 annual meeting was held at Riverside Baptist Church. The June 24, 1927 annual session was held at First Baptist Church, Asheville. Miss Amy Carter, Superintendent, presided. Mrs. J. G. Greenwood was elected Superintendent.

The WMU report for 1929 was given by Mrs. A. D. Stover, Superintendent. She reported that nine societies reached the "Ruby Anniversary Aim," and their names had been recorded in the "Book of Remembrance." They are Beaverdam, WMS and Sunbeams; Reed's Chapel, WMS and Sunbeams; Riverside, WMS, Intermediate and Junior GA, RA and Sunbeams.

The annual session of WMU, June 25, 1930 met at Weaverville Baptist Church. Mrs. J. M. Justice, Associate Superintendent, presided in the absence of Mrs. J. G. Greenwood, who was ill. Mrs. George Pennell was elected Superintendent to serve in 1930-31.

The 1931 annual meeting was held at West Asheville Baptist Church. At that meeting special music was rendered by Rev. and Mrs. Charles Jolley and a message on Foreign Missions was delivered by Dr. W. R. Owen, pastor, First Baptist Church, Asheville. The WMU report was given by Mrs. Pennell, and she stated that out of 50 churches in the Buncombe Association, only 23 had missionary societies. The association was divided into four geographical groups, with a sponsoring church for each group. A group meeting was held in each area to encourage women to organize.

That year 11 new societies were reported. Two WMU's reached the Standard: French Broad Avenue and Reed's Chapel. Nine young people's organizations were Standard, 21 societies had mission studies and 23 observed seasons of prayer and made an offering.

At the annual meeting, 1931, Mrs. George Pennell was reelected as superintendent. It is stated that Mrs. Pennell, Mrs. Fitzgerald and Mrs. O. D. Creasman visited every church in the association in an effort to organize a WMU.

The Foreign Missions Report of the 1931 minutes stated that Dr. George W. Truett had made a most outstanding evangelistic tour through Brazil, Argentina and Chile the previous summer. As a result, multitudes confessed Christ as Savior. Also, the Foreign Mission Board reported the largest number of baptisms in one year - 14,415. The revivals in North China, Canton, Shanghai and Shantung provinces, Lagos in West Africa and other places were reported. At that time there were 425 foreign missionaries in 14 countries.

The 1932 reports reflected the effects of the depression years. Said Mrs. George Pennell, "When we consider the desperate time many of our people are experiencing in keeping a family clothed and fed, it is with grateful hearts that we think of the work that Woman's Missionary Union in Buncombe Association has accomplished this year." Total gifts to missions through WMU was \$4,823.13. Eleven new organizations were reported. West Asheville Church WMS was the only one to report a complete WMU organization with all age levels. They also achieved A-1 on the Standard of Excellence. There were only 10 such unions in North Carolina.

The following report shows the hard work which Mrs. Pennell did that year: letters written, 230; post cards written, 65; visits made, 30; meetings held, 14; miles traveled, 878; societies organized, 6. Only 19 of the 50 churches were without a WMU organization.

Mrs. C. W. Shope served as WMU Superintendent during 1933. She reported 14 new organizations, eight of which were young people's societies, organized by Mrs. J. R. Owen, Young People's Leader. Buncombe WMU led the state of North Carolina in young people's organizations that year. Mrs. Shope reported traveling 818 miles, holding 29 meetings and visiting 37 societies.

In 1934 Mrs. C. D. Martin reported 36 WMS', 17 YWA's, 15 GA's, 6 RA's and 13 Sunbeam Bands, for a total of 87 organizations and 1,702 members. Mrs. Martin also gave the report for 1935. She reported 24 WMS' with a membership of 845. All other age level organizations were reported doing well, and the total membership was 1,785.

Mrs. Martin gave a glowing report for 1936. She visited 60 societies, wrote 458 cards and letters, traveled 1,528 miles in the interest of WMU work. During 1936 the YWA members were asked to write and give declamations on stewardship. They were encouraged to memorize stewardship tracts sent out from the Southern Baptist Stewardship Chairman. A Junior Royal Ambassador, J. I. Rice, won the contest in the divisional meeting, which consisted of 14 associations. These declamations may have helped in the total WMU gifts to missions, which was \$6,877.11, an increase over the past year of \$1,000.00.

In 1936 there were 11 new organizations, four WMS' and 7 young people's. There were 91 mission study classes that year. The mission study slogan was "Information Brings Inspiration." Four meetings in 1936 included three quarterly meetings. They were held at Chunn's Cove, Newbridge and Beaverdam churches. The annual meeting was at West Asheville Church, where 17 churches were represented, including one black church. Also four foreign mission countries were represented: Egypt, China, Japan and Brazil.

Mrs. O. V. Hines (formerly Annie Logan) gave the report as Superintendent of WMU in 1937. She stated that WMU had set six aims upon which to base their work. They were as follows:

1. Prayer, both individual and private
2. Enlistment of women, young women and children
3. Study of the Bible and world missions
4. Personal service, both physical and spiritual
5. Stewardship expressed in tithes and offerings
6. Missionary education of young people

To quote from that report, "In May, 1938, Woman's Missionary Union of the South will celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Golden Jubilee. Looking toward this celebration the Union is calling every member to a deeper devotion to Jesus Christ, to a more complete surrender to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and to a higher conception of purpose and loyalty in service."

It was in 1937 that the minutes began carrying a list of WMU presidents from each church.

It seems that Mrs. D. C. Martin served as Superintendent of WMU again in 1938 and 1939. She gave the report at the meetings those two years. Both reports showed continuing interest in missions and missions gifts.

Mrs. J. O. Crenshaw served as Superintendent in 1940. That year the WMU Watchword was "For ye serve the Lord Christ," coupled with the theme, "Stedfast Purpose in a Changing World."

Mrs. D. L. Holland reported in 1941 that 37 churches in the association had WMU organizations. Six new WMS' and 16 young people's organizations were started during the year.

The minutes of 1942 state that Rev. J. B. Hipps reported on the condition of Miss Naomi Schell, missionary to Japan. He stated that everything possible was being done for her and suggested that the churches send their financial support for Miss Schell to the Foreign Mission Board headquarters, or to Dr. Maddrey. Brother Hipps thanked the association and the churches for supporting Miss Schell with their special love offerings each month. Following is a copy of a letter from Miss Schell expressing appreciation for the help given her.

Dear Friends:

Many years ago my missionary education was begun in a Sunbeam meeting where Foy Johnson (now Mrs. J. S. Farmer) took us on a "big, big ship to tell the story of Jesus." Years later I prepared to do just that by attending WMU Training School on a North Carolina scholarship. And when I began the Good Will Center in Japan it was a gift from Fannie Heck Memorial Fund that bought the land and the building, and current support of the work was provided from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. One of the great joys granted me out there was organizing the YWA work for the WMU. Thus, from earliest days I have been indebted to WMU for my greatest joys, and when in 1940 I was returned to the States, one of my greatest griefs was that I must give up this happy relationship with WMU.

But a few months ago I learned that I had been, since last year, the recipient of your generosity, and thus once again indebted to Woman's Missionary Union. And how deep is my debt!

For through you has been fulfilled to me Philippians 4:19, "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus." Truly, not only has my every need been met, but in so many gracious ways, visits from so many of your members, dainty gifts from so many, and remembrances on every occasion. You have had so many ways of blessing my life that the shut-in days I had so dreaded have been singing, shining days. Would that I could in some adequate way, show my appreciation of all your loving kindness. I can only pray that the blessings you have showered upon me may be returned to each of you in manifold measure.

May God's richest blessings be upon your meeting that you may indeed "attempt great things for God."

Sunshine Nursing Home
51 Watauga Street
June sixth

Gratefully yours,
Naomi Schell

NAOMI SCHELL FUND TO AUGUST 1, 1946

Amounts Received

Weaverville.....	59.00
Asheville First.....	105.00
Ridgecrest.....	8.00
Reed Memorial.....	17.00
New Morgan Hill.....	10.00
Merrimon Avenue.....	35.00
Beaverdam.....	9.21
Emmanuel.....	5.00
From Buncombe Pastors...	20.00
Chunn's Cove.....	6.00
WMU Raleigh.....	25.00
Deaverview.....	10.00
Ridgeway.....	6.45
Buena Vista.....	8.00
Oakley.....	10.00
Mrs. E. E. Allison.....	10.00
West Asheville.....	10.00
Fairview.....	5.00
Liberty.....	10.66
Patton Avenue.....	30.00
Hendersonville First....	10.00
Biltmore.....	18.02

Berea.....	3.00
Mr./Mrs. Lawson Allen	5.00
Calvary.....	30.00
Sylva First.....	25.50
Craven Street.....	5.00
Waynesville.....	15.00
White Rock.....	10.84
Miss Donna Britt.....	50.00
Foreign Mission Board	79.16
Total Received	\$650.84

Disbursements:

Foreign Mission Bd...	105.00
McCracken Nur. Home..	280.00
Miss Spillars (nurse)	6.00
Adams Blauvelt Co.	
(Medicine)	8.70
Mrs. Asor Schell....	75.00
Total Disb.....	\$474.70
Bal. on Hand.....	\$176.14
The balance to Miss Schell's mother at \$15.00 per month.	

In 1943 Mrs. D. C. Martin again arose to the occasion and served as Superintendent to fill out the unexpired term of Mrs. Fred Womack who had moved to another state. A good report was given, and Mrs. J. B. Hipps, missionary to China, spoke to the report.

The report for 1944 was given by Mrs. J. E. Bagwell, Young People's Leader, in the absence of Mrs. D. C. Martin. This was during World War II when gas was rationed. Therefore, the following quote from the report was interesting: "Our association is divided into six districts, with a leader in each. The leaders have meetings every three months and send written reports to the Superintendent after each meeting. More people can be reached in this way since traveling by car is so restricted."

It seems that all money collected by women for missions at that time was sent through the WMU office in Raleigh. In 1944 the Superintendent reported that \$11,135.89 was sent, exceeding any amount in previous years.

Mrs. John L. Tiller served as Superintendent of WMU during 1945. A quote from her report: "In January the year began with our divisional meeting at the S & W Cafeteria. Our leadership conference was held at First Baptist Church, and the associational meeting was held at the Newbridge Church in June. A divisional meeting was held at Calvary in October. All meetings were well attended with helpful programs, good reports, and inspirational speakers."

"Daily we pray for our missionaries listed on the prayer calendar. Three times a year we observe seasons of prayer and gifts. Our WMU majors on the Cooperative Program. We met our goal by giving \$8,767.97. Our goals for 1945 are: 100 new organizations, 1,000 new members, 200 new tithers, and \$10,600 gifts to the Cooperative Program."

In the year 1946 WMU encountered difficulty in keeping a Superintendent. Mrs. John Tiller had been elected, but she moved with her husband to Tennessee. Mrs. Harry W. Brown, Associate Superintendent, served until the annual meeting in April. At that meeting Mrs. O. J. Hagler was elected, but in August she went with her husband to Carthage, North Carolina.

In spite of all the changes a good report was given at the annual meeting with Enka Baptist Church, where about 200 women attended. The guest speakers were Mrs. John Allen Moore, missionary to Yugoslavia, and Miss Katherine Abee, Young People's Leader for North Carolina.

A Mother-Daughter Banquet was held at the S & W Cafeteria in February of 1946 with 246 mothers and daughters from 16 churches in attendance. Miss Katherine Abee was the speaker.

Mrs. H. W. Baucomb, Young People's Leader for Buncombe WMU, gave the 1946 report. Mrs. Tom E. Walters was elected to serve as Superintendent for 1947-48. She gave a good report for the two years. The annual meeting in April, 1947 was held at First Baptist Church, Black Mountain. Miss Bertha Smith, missionary to China, was the speaker.

In 1947 gifts to missions included \$14,140.89 to the Cooperative Program and \$11,477.18 to special missions, totaling \$25,619.07 and exceeding gifts of any previous year. However, Mrs. Walters wrote, "We have not begun to touch the needs of our work in the association. The great people of Buncombe Association are like a sleeping princess, awaiting the touch of a living hand. We have in our reach the power of Christ, the leadership of the Holy Spirit to make this association a mighty power in extending God's Kingdom to its remotest corner and to the confines of the earth. Let us awaken to the task that is before us before it is too late."

In 1947 the minutes began carrying all the names of associational WMU officers.

Mrs. D. L. Holland served as Superintendent of WMU in 1949. She reported 14 new organizations for the year. One statement in her report urging people to give was "We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving."

In 1950 Mrs. W. B. Sprinkle was elected Superintendent and served well through 1954. The 1950 report showed 155 organizations (10 of which were new) and 3,363 members. There were 175 mission study classes and many observing the seasons of prayer. Offerings were good. At the annual meeting an offering was taken

to help pay for a much needed car recently purchased by our association for H. M. Hocutt, Associational Missionary.

The 1951 report by Mrs. W. B. Sprinkle showed new interest. The April 19 annual meeting had an attendance of about 300 women, representing 35 churches. The report showed a gain in membership of about 500, and an increase of 45 organizations. There were 1,199 tithers with 1,938 giving regularly to the Cooperative Program.

In 1952 a new phase of WNU work was reported by Mrs. Sprinkle. The Baptist Women's Federation was organized in the Buncombe Association. (A complete history of this organization included in this book.) A scholarship was started that year to help worthy preachers study at Fruitland School for Preachers.

There were six A-1 organizations: Weaverville WMS, Biltmore and Riverside Sunbeams, Merrimon Avenue and Ridgecrest GA's, and Asheville First YWA's. Beaverdam reported that 100% of their women had read a mission study book. The Reverend and Mrs. Ewell Payne, Home Missionaries to the Cherokee Indians, spoke in each district of the association.

A quote from the report given by Mrs. W. B. Sprinkle gives a picture of the progress during 1953: "Varied activities provided opportunities to look and prove that our eyes had been lifted. There were regular Business Federation meetings, 65 attended the YWA banquet, over 100 RA's attended the associational RA Conclave, a splendid group attended associational camp, 159 GA's and counselors visited Cherokee and gave money to help purchase a car for a young minister, 189 gathered for a rally during GA Focus Week, and 56 girls and counselors registered for associational GA Camp. Over 100 women participated in Stewardship nights, which were held by districts. A tape recorder was purchased and presented to the Home Mission Field at Cherokee, a tribute to Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Fitzgerald."

Appreciation was expressed to Mrs. Frank Killian who had served as treasurer for over 30 years.

Mrs. Sprinkle, continuing as Superintendent in 1954, reported missions study emphases for the year with good results. She also stated that 43 groups studied stewardship books, 11

observed stewardship night, and new tithers totaled 272. During the five years, 1950-54, in which Mrs. Sprinkle served as Superintendent, the WMU grew both in organizations and membership.

Mrs. Charles Jolley, Associate Superintendent, gave the WMU report for 1955. She stated the committee had not yet secured a Superintendent for the year. However, by the time the minutes were printed, Mrs. E. W. Sullivan had taken that position. Mrs. Jolley stated that there were still 30 churches without WMU organizations; however, 58 churches had at least one organization. Only 11 WMU's were fully graded with organizations for all age levels. This seemed to be a discouraging moment, and Mrs. Jolley quoted from Miss Fannie E. S. Heck: "Be well endued with the grace on continuance."

In 1956 the churches of the association grouped into 10 districts instead of 5. There were 89 churches in the Buncombe Association at that time.

Mrs. E. W. Sullivan gave the following report: number of organizations 59; number of churches with no organization, 29; number of members, 2,914.

Mrs. Sullivan recognized Miss Vonnie E. Lance who spoke briefly. Miss Lance had just retired as WMU Executive Secretary of South Carolina and had come to Asheville to live.

At the annual associational meeting of WMU in April, 1957, Miss Vonnie Lance was elected WMU Superintendent of the association. At this meeting, held in Biltmore Baptist Church, three visitors were guest speakers. They were Mrs. John Waycaster of the State WMU, Mrs. John Lake, missionary to China, and Mrs. J. R. Morgan, District Superintendent.

Something new was tried during the winter of 1956. Mrs. Lynn Buckner, Youth Director, and Mrs. J. C. Pipes planned an Association-wide Foreign Mission Study for all the WMU organizations in the churches. They were pleasantly surprised when 300 showed up. They had not expected this many to attend.

Miss Lance served as Superintendent of WMU from 1957-1962. The constitution stated a person could hold the same office only five years. The sixth year she served under the title of Associate Superintendent since her efficient services were needed.

The 1958 report by Miss Lance showed new work started in the following churches: Pine Burr Park, Inanda, Sand Hill, Big Ivy (now Barnardsville), Long Shoals, and Arden Chapel. The figures now showed 59 WMS', 18 YWA's (increase of 3 that year), 52 GA's (increase of 13), and 42 Sunbeam Bands (increase of 16).

The Constitution was changed in 1958 . Instead of a Young People's Director to coordinate the work of the age level leaders a director for each age level was elected. Mrs. Lynn Buckner, who had been serving as Young People's Director, became YWA Director, and she organized a YWA Council.

Miss Vonnie Lance reported a good annual WMU meeting April 24, 1958 at the First Baptist Church, Black Mountain, beginning at 4:30 P.M. Mrs. Edward Altland gave the devotional message. Special guest speakers were Mrs. W. K. McGee, State WMU president, and Miss Anita Roper, missionary teacher in Africa. The evening meal was served by the host church and an evening session was held.

The report for 1959 was good. The recent change in the Constitution to allow a director for each age level had been successful. The following served in these places: Mrs. Lynn Buckner, YWA Director; Mrs. Eldon Chandler, GA Director; and Mrs. L. H. Bector, Sunbeam Director. Rollies and councils were held with each group during the year. Miss Lance reported 3,281 WMU members in 239 organizations.

The 1960 annual meeting was held at the Grace Baptist Church with 160 in attendance. Speakers for this meeting were Mrs. Roy Chamblee, missionary, Mrs. R. P. Stroupe and Miss Sara Ann Hobbs. Miss Lance reported the WMU was cooperating with the Association-wide program which was meeting monthly on Associational Night.

The 1961 report was outstanding in that 1,000 people attended the Associational Leadership Conference at First Baptist Church. This conference included all church organizations and was led by associational leadership. Rev. E. V. Plemmons was the new Associational Missionary at that time.

The 1961 annual WMU meeting was held at Morningside Church. The women had been asked to participate in a diaper shower for the Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem. More than 700 diapers

were contributed. Mrs. Bertis Fair, missionary to the migrants, was the featured speaker.

At the 1962 annual meeting Miss Lance reminded the women that this was the year of change for WMU. The Southwide changes were in reporting, and also in the set-up of the work, with an eye toward progress.

The Association Night changed from a monthly meeting to a quarterly meeting in 1962.

Leading up to the 75th year of WMU in the Southern Baptist convention, 75 days of prayer were observed in preparation of the "Jubilee" celebration. Nineteen hundred and sixty-three being the 75th year of WMU, the emphasis was on prayer. Prayer retreats were held in many churches, Associational Executive Board meetings and during Associational Nights. Mrs. A. T. Usher was elected to serve as WMU President in 1963. She succeeded Miss Vonnice Lance who had served 6 years as president.

It was in 1963 that the women of the Association assisted in paying the salary of a black girl to work in Vacation Bible Schools in the Mud Creek Association. Also the WMU Executive Board voted to pay \$10.00 a month toward the college education of a worthy black girl.

The GAS, under the leadership of Mrs. E. V. Plemmons, celebrated the 50th birthday of GAS (SBC) in a big way. An anniversary party was held at Westwood Baptist Church. The girls carried their own box lunches and over 600 were in attendance.

Mrs. A. T. Usher was reelected President of the Associational WMU for 1964. She reported that a number of WMU ladies from the Buncombe Association attended the Southwide WMU Convention and Jubilee celebration in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The Associational annual meeting was held at Biltmore Baptist Church with 212 women attending from 31 churches. Mrs. James T. McRae, missionary to the Near East, and Mrs. A. L. Parker, state WMU president, were speakers. Sixteen societies had contributed \$219.73 to the Brenda Reynolds Fund, helping a worthy black girl from Asheville during her senior year at Bennett College. Also, the WMU gave \$75.00 toward the salary of the V.B.S. worker

in the Mud Creek Association. Mrs. A. T. Usher was reelected President to serve during 1965.

Some very interesting quarterly meetings were held in 1965. In January Mrs. Charles Cowherd, missionary to Hong Kong, was the guest speaker. In April the WMU and Brotherhood met together to hear Rev. and Mrs. John Knight present a program on The Christian Home. The July meeting was a prayer retreat at the West Asheville Church. The annual meeting was held at Ridgeway Baptist Church with Rev. and Mrs. Bill Roberson, missionaries to Vietnam, speakers.

A most appropriate and loving tribute to Miss Vonnice Lance, late president of the Associational WMU, was read by Mrs. Horace W. Smith. An offering of \$100 was given in her memory, and an additional \$100 was taken from the treasury and sent to the Foreign Mission Board to be used for a \$200 scholarship in the seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Mrs. A. T. Usher and Mrs. Lynn Buckner served during 1965 on the state WMU Executive Board and helped in setting policies and making plans for the North Carolina WMU.

The 1966 annual meeting was held at the Merrimon Avenue Baptist Church. This was an afternoon and night meeting. Miss Martha Franks of Laurens, S.C. and Miss Olive Lawton of Ridgecrest were the "twin" missionary speakers. Both born February 15, 1901, they both served in China and Taiwan for more than 40 years before retiring in February, 1966! They were not sisters, just had the same birth date.

A contribution to the Lottie Moon Offering was made to Morningside Baptist Church in memory of Mrs. J. O. Crenshaw. She had served as Community Missions Director in Buncombe Association for many years.

Mrs. W. T. Hodge was elected president in 1966. A highlight of that year was the Open House for our new Associational Building at Haywood and Sulphur Springs Road. The WMU officers served refreshments and hosted that occasion on February 5, 1967 at 2:00 P.M.

The 1967 annual meeting theme was the "The Church Fulfilling Its Mission Through Education." Featured speakers were Dr. Fred Bentley and Rev. Robert Melvin from Mars Hill College. Rev. Duprey

Gorman reported on the work at Fruitland Bible Institute, and Mrs. Alcovia McCall told of our Interracial Vacation Bible School work. Mrs. W. T. Hodge was reelected president.

In March 1968 the State WMU Annual meeting was held in Asheville. It was a great meeting despite varied and inclement weather.

The 1968 Associational annual WMU meeting was held at the Weaverville Baptist Church. Mrs. Stuart Rice, president of the Weaverville WMU, and her ladies served well as hostesses. Miss Annice Whaley showed slides of her work as a Journeyman.

At the July quarterly meeting the WMU met jointly with the Associational Brotherhood and heard Miss Lucy Wright, missionary to China.

In 1969 "Changes and Choices" marked the year's work. New organizational ideas, new materials to interpret these ideas and a new look of simplicity and flexibility led to more effectively performed tasks of WMU.

A study of age-level manuals in September got Buncombe WMU off to a good start. The 1969 annual meeting was held at First Baptist Church, Swannanoa where Mrs. W. M. Fox and her ladies proved to be gracious hostesses. Miss Pauline Snelson was elected president in 1969.

The 70's were years of change. Although much time was spent in conferences and clinics preparing for the changes, the women tried to show their love through action in keeping with the WMU Watchword: "My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love which shows itself in action." I John 3:18 (TEV)

A WMU workshop was held in Hickory to train associational officers and early in 1970 a Leadership Conference was held at West Asheville Church to train church leaders. One hundred and seventy-six women attended. The annual meeting was held at the Biltmore Church, April 27, 1970.

The four Associational "Shaping the 70's" clinics were attended by women from 47 of the 61 churches with WMU organizations. The other 14 churches were contacted in person or by phone and materials were given to them.

Miss Snelson prepared a WMU NEWSLETTER quarterly, and it was mailed from the Association office to more than 200 leaders. The Associational WMU by-laws were studied and revised to fit the new program for 1970. A scholarship of \$100 was given to Clifford Jones (black) who was studying for the ministry at Southeastern Seminary.

Miss Pauline Snelson was reelected in 1970 as WMU Director (note change of terminology from "president" to "director").

Nineteen seventy-one proved to be a very busy year. The WMU Council members attended a leadership conference at WMU Camp Mundo Vista. Two Associational leadership conferences were held in October. These conferences were well attended. The GA's had an active year with Mrs. Zelma Barnes as director. The activities included a GA Rally at Enka Church and two day camps during the summer.

A linen shower was given for the Broyhill Children's Home and the gifts were valued at \$173.22.

A rating of "Distinguished" was attained in 1971 on the Associational WMU Achievement Guide. Mrs. Wesley Sprinkle was elected WMU Director that year.

Over 200 WMU leaders attended a Leadership Clinic in October, 1972. A prayer retreat was held at Lake Junaluska for Acteens, with over 400 girls attending. This retreat was led by Beverly Angel and Sue Barron, Acteen leaders.

The GA's had a Mission Adventures Fair at Arden Church with 166 girls in attendance, representing 17 churches.

The WMU work of the Association was financed by a progress fund. Each church WMU was asked to contribute 25 cents per member per year. In 1972 it was increased to 40 cents per member.

Mrs. Sprinkle was reelected as WMU Director in 1972. She gave a good report to the Association. She stated that since her coming to the Buncombe Association in 1950 she had not seen such profound interest as that which preceeded the



Mrs. O. V. Himes
(Miss Annie Logan)
1911-1924, 1937



Mrs. George Pennell
1931-1932



Mrs. D. C. Martin
1934-36, 1938-39, 1943-44



Mrs. J. O. Crenshaw
1940



Mrs. D. L. Holland
1941



Mrs. Fred Womack
1942



Mrs. John L. Tillier
1945



Mrs. W. B. Sprinkle
1950-54, 1971-72



Miss Vonnie Lance
1957-1962



Mrs. A. T. Usher
1963-1965



Mrs. W. T. Hodge
1966-1968



Mrs. Robert Barnes
1973-1977



Mrs. Bruce Hollingsworth
1978-1979



Mrs. T. H. Whitaker
1980



Mrs. James Calvin
1981-1982



Mrs. Margaret Stamey
1983



Miss Pauline Snelson
1969-70, 1984-85



Mrs. Martha E. Hicks
Director Church Development
1972-1985



WORLD MISSIONS CONFERENCE - 1979

HISTORICAL FASHION DRAMA - ANNUAL MEETING 1985

Pictured left to right are: Mrs. Vernon Troutman, Mrs. Roger Ward, Mrs. Fred Messer, Lillie Mae Miller, Mrs. Marshall Wyatt, Mrs. Paul Price, Mrs. George Buckner, Pansy Ezell, Mrs. Jack Placey, Mrs. Philip Godfrey, Becky Cloud, Mrs. Joe Strange, Wendy Carpenter, Mrs. Rex Cloud, Mrs. E. L. Davis, and Mrs. Frank Sentelle.

Not pictured: Inez Brittain, Mrs. Ed Barron, and Mrs. Ed Cody.
From the following churches: Enka, Weaverville, Asheville First, West Asheville, Galvary, Beverly Hills, Black Mountain First, Swannanoa First, and Edgewood.



Season of Prayer for Home Missions. This effort was complemented by Rev. and Mrs. John Hicks' presentation of the Mission Study Series eleven times, and Dr. and Mrs. Robert Melvin from Mars Hill College giving support to mission study in the northern section of the Association.

The annual WMU meeting was held at First Baptist Church, Asheville. Featured speakers were Miss Sara Ann Hobbs, State WMU Secretary, and the W. A. Mitchners of Oxford, N. C. Mrs. Robert (Zelma) Barnes was elected WMU Director in 1973. The following is her account of her five-year tenure. 1973-1977.

The year 1973 began with leadership training which continued at quarterly associational nights where age level directors gave intensive training to church leaders.

For the first time Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer was observed as an associational meeting with 60 women attending from 15 churches. Twenty-one women from seven churches attended the annual state meeting in Winston-Salem. A "Distinguished" award was given for Associational work.

The annual meeting was held at First Baptist, Swannanoa with 185 in attendance. Seventeen churches were recognized for reaching awards on the Achievement Guide. Mrs. Dwight L. Baker, missionary to Israel, spoke, and special music was presented by the combined choirs of Rock Hill and Mt. Zion Baptist Churches, directed by Martha E. Hicks. This interracial fellowship opened the door for a Prayer Retreat at Rock Hill Church by Buncombe WMU and Mad Creek Association WMU. Seventy-six women, black and white, attended. The theme was "We Are One in the Spirit."

Through training at Ridgecrest, dedication and efficiency of age-level directors, 17 new organizations were started, bringing the total to 64 of the 91 churches with WMU work at the end of 1974.

WMU Council meetings were held quarterly for planning and evaluation in 1975. Training continued as in 1974 and quarterly bulletins were mailed to all the churches. WMU assisted in promoting World Missions Conferences in the Buncombe churches. Many churches became involved in Mission Action at the Maternity Home in Asheville as a result of emphasis on "Love Thy Neighbor."

Twenty-eight churches were represented at the Annual meeting at Pole Creek Church in 1975. The following churches were recognized: Arden, Westwood, Pole Creek, Long Shoals, Calvary and Newfound for receiving points on the WMU Achievement Guide. Several age level organizations were recognized.

New organizations were 3 GA's, 8 Acteens, 1 BYW, 1 BW, and 1 MF. Age level activities were: Mission Friends Clinic at Arden, GA Rally at Ridgecrest, Acteens Prayer Retreat at Lake Junaluska, and BW and BYW joint observance of World Day of Prayer.

A combined Council meeting for out-going and in-coming officers, plus the Leadership Conference at Fruitland gave a good start to the new year 1976.

Meetings were held in each of the nine districts in observance of the World Day of Prayer. A Prayer Retreat, planned by the BW Director, was held at the site of the Baptist Retirement Home, with 15 churches participating.

In cooperation with the State, WMU sent 250 boxes of powder as part of Christmas gifts to the women in Raleigh prison; and also spent \$150 to buy tapes and devotional materials for the prison. One hundred twenty-five dollars was given to assist in black VBS work and \$100 to a student minister at Fruitland.

A high attendance of 299 marked the annual meeting at Weaverville. Thirteen WMU and 43 age level awards were given.

Age level activities for the year included a GA Play Day at Ridgecrest, Acteens Studiact Fair at Enka and exhibit at Ridgecrest for WMU Week, and BYW Fellowship at Hominy. Thirteen new age level organizations were started.

In 1977 training began with two bus loads of women going to Mars Hill for an area study of the new manuals just published, and taught by state leaders.

Observance of World Day of Prayer was held in all nine districts, reaching 42 churches.

The WMU Council worked with the State Executive Secretary, Sara Ann Hobbs, and State President, Betty Gilreath in arranging for the Annual State Meeting held in Thomas Wolfe Auditorium in March. The Council also arranged a lovely reception honoring Miss Hobbs on her retirement from the State WMU work after 20 years of service. The 4,000 homemade cookies were furnished by Buncombe churches. One thousand thirty registered for the meeting. Buncombe WMU received "Distinguished" Award again.

Activities for all age level organizations were held that year. The annual meeting at Arden honored pastors as special guests. Thirteen churches, Arden, Calvary, Enka, Edgewood, Polo Creek, Long Shoals, Westwood, Kerlee, Biltmore, Weaverville, Newfound, Merrimon Avenue and Jupiter, received awards.

New work started in three more churches. One hundred seventy-four attended the Leadership Conference for training. Forty-one churches were represented by 331 at the Baptist World Day of Prayer at the nine district meetings.

The WMU worked with CSM Director, Gayle Brown, in a mission project when the Jones Valley Church, Newfound Association, was destroyed by a flood and was being rebuilt by volunteer workers from over the state. Buncombe Church WMUs furnished and served lunches to the volunteers at the work site for several weeks.

Another mission project was buying material and making 60 containers to be put in Asheville taxicabs for distribution of Christian literature.

Fifteen women attended the State meeting in Fayetteville, and a "Distinguished" award was again received by Buncombe WMU.

The 1977 annual meeting was held at Calvary Baptist Church. At that meeting Liberty, Skyland, Newbridge and Reed Memorial churches were added to the 1977 list of churches receiving awards for achievement, making a total of 17. Sixty-one age level awards were given.

Activities were as follows: GA Play Day at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly; Acteens Banquet was held at Edgewood Church; Forty-three Acteens visited the Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

The tour was planned by Acteens Director, Mrs. Joe Strange. The BYW's attended the State meeting at Ridgecrest.

Mrs. Bruce (Jean) Hollingsworth was elected Associational WMU Director in 1978.

Some of the highlights of the year 1978 were as follows: The year started with all age level directors of the Associational WMU Council attending the Associational Directors Workshop at Ridgecrest. The World Day of Prayer was observed in eight districts with 40 churches participating.

The Baptist Women sent 250 pairs of gloves to Women's Prison in Raleigh for Christmas gifts. The Associational WMU gave \$125 for interracial work. The Acteens operated a Welcome Booth at Ridgecrest for the State Acteens Convention. The WMU Council assisted in dedication of the new WNC Retirement Home on Richmond Hill Drive in Asheville.

The WMU Director, Jean Hollingsworth, attended the Key Leadership Conference at Ridgecrest. Sixty-three of the 92 churches in the Buncombe Association reported WMU work.

Mrs. Hollingsworth was again elected as WMU Director in 1979. "Life Changing Commitments" was the emphasis at a Bold Missions conference. Twenty Acteens attended the Acteens Convention in Kansas City, accompanied by Dot Calvin, Acteens Director.

Pauline Snelson, Mission Action Director, led in getting women to volunteer to make draperies. Enka Plant donated material and draperies were made for both dining rooms and office at Craggy Prison. Mrs. Stella Fox supervised the work and 12 women donated many hours of labor over a period of several weeks to get the job done.

The WMU Council, supervised by Mrs. Grace Jones, furnished refreshments and assisted at the graduation of 20 inmates at Craggy Prison. They had completed a Seminary Extension Bible Study Course taught by Rev. Gilbert Barnhill, pastor at Oakley Church.

The World Missions Conference was held in Buncombe Association that year. A Missions Fair was held at Calvary Church where

Baptist women and youth (RA's, GA's, Acteens) could come see and talk to all the missionaries. Many came for this event.

The WMU furnished refreshments for Open House at Starnes House next to the Baptist Building, later called Missions House or Lanvale Cottage.

The 1980 annual meeting was held at the Bent Creek Church with the theme, "We Are Weavers." District leaders arranged displays of handwork done by members from the churches. Mrs. Marvin Garrett brought the message relating to colors we are weaving into the tapestry of our lives.

In 1980 we also participated in the 150th anniversary of our NC Baptist State Convention. The Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer was unusually successful with a total of 338 women attending, representing 53 churches and an offering of \$303.34. There were three "Distinguished" WMU organizations: Long Shoals, Westwood and Weaverville. The following age level organizations were also "Distinguished": Baptist Women, Calvary and Weaverville; BYW, Weaverville; Acteens, Edgewood, Weaverville; Mission Friends, Weaverville.

A GA Missions Rally planned by Edwina Messer, Associational GA Director, was a great success with 120 girls and leaders attending the event at Beverly Hills Church.

In 1980 Mrs. Kirby Whitaker was elected WMU Director to succeed Mrs. Jean Hollingsworth. Under her leadership 53 women from the Buncombe Association attended the March, 1981, State WMU annual meeting in Charlotte. A bus trip was planned and coordinated by Sally Hutchison.

Through A WMU membership drive 104 new members were enlisted. The annual Associational meeting was held at Hominy Church with the theme "World Changers." The program consisted of a missionary panel wearing costumes from other lands. Rev. Jerry Potter challenged us with a message on changing the world of the deaf, blind, and disadvantaged by showing our love and concern. Three "Distinguished" WMU organizations were recognized: Long Shoals, Westwood and Weaverville. The following age level organizations were "Distinguished": Baptist Women, Calvary and Weaverville; Acteens, Edgewood, Weaverville, Arden, First; GA's, Long Shoals, Edgewood, Weaverville; Mission Friends, Weaverville.

In 1981 Mrs. Dot Calvin was elected WMU Director. Under her leadership the GAs and Acteens held their first camp at Bear Walla with 75 girls attending. In addition to leading GAs at the Camp, Edwina Messer led a GA Camp at Beverly Hills Church. She also led in an Associational GA banquet during the year. Two Associational Mission Action projects were:

- 1) Christmas gift of money to the NC Correctional Center in Raleigh to help buy draperies.

- 2) Items were collected and taken to the Rescue Mission in Asheville.

The WMU women in the Association paid for literature to be used in West Virginia churches (new work).

The 1982 annual meeting was held at Weaverville Church. Mrs. Bea McRae, president of North Carolina WMU challenged us with a message entitled "God Uses Women." Food was collected and taken to the "Missions House" on Lanvale for four summer workers in the Association.

It was in 1982 that the women of the churches in the Association began serving lunch for BSU meetings at UNC-A. Mrs. Grace Jones, Special Projects Director, correlated this project.

Mrs. Calvin gave the following report in her second term of office:

The Associational WMU was again recognized at the State meeting as "Distinguished."

The GA Camp was held at Camp Truett with 65 attending.

A very successful baby shower was given at Baptist Maternity Home. Many women from the churches participated. This was to provide baby needs for mothers who planned to keep their babies. Twenty-nine aprons were taken to Dr. Claude Frazier to be placed in taxicabs and Greyhound buses as holders for Scriptures for use by passengers. Christmas gifts of 250 toothbrushes were sent to Women's Prison in Raleigh, and 22 new games were sent to students at the Juvenile Center in Swannanoa; also this year, 625 pairs of eyeglasses were given to medical mission volunteers from N. C. to be used in a hospital in Yoro, Honduras.

Buncombe Associational WMU hosted the 92nd State WMU Convention at Ridgecrest, with a record attendance of over 2,400. The Buncombe WMU was again recognized as "Distinguished."

The annual session was held at Black Mountain First Baptist Church. Mrs. Joy Bates, missionary to Chile, and Mrs. Philecta Staton, missionary to Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania brought mission messages. Several new organizations were reported in 1982.

Mrs. Margaret Stamey was elected WMU Director in the year 1983.

This was a very good year under the leadership of a faithful and hard working WMU Council. The GA Camp at Bear Walla, with Edwina Messer leading, reported eleven professions of faith. The project of furnishing lunch for BSU members each Monday at UNC-A was continued under the leadership of Mrs. Grace Jones.

Pauline Snelson, Mission Action Director, reported that for Christmas 600 pairs of knee-high hose were sent to the state office to be distributed to the women of the North Carolina Correctional Center in Raleigh.

The first "Day Spring" Conference, sponsored by the South-wide WMU, the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board, was held at Ridgecrest with 2,800 women attending. Buncombe Associational WMU Council helped with this in several ways. This included transporting speakers to and from Asheville Airport.

Miss Pauline Snelson was elected Director of WMU at the 1984 annual meeting. The emphasis for 1984-85 was "By Love Compelled." The Watchword was "My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love which shows itself in action." I John 3:18 (TEV)

This year North Carolina WMU emphasized the coming of our Centennial Year, 1985-86. On January 8, 1986 North Carolina WMU would be 100 years old. The theme for 1984-86 (two years) was "Come Grow With Us." Efforts were made to increase WMU enrollment 25% each year for four years, 1984-1988. Another emphasis was to encourage each church to have a prayer retreat.

Nine of the Council members who were eligible attended

the WMU Leadership training for Associational officers at Fruitland July 28, 1984.

The first Foreign Missions Teleconference, promoted by WMU and the Foreign Mission Board, was on December 1, 1984. This was to launch the Foreign Missions Week of Prayer. Calvary Baptist Church was the central place for people from Buncombe to view this program. A good group attended.

The NC State WMU meeting in Winston-Salem was a highlight in March, 1985. Seventy-one people from Buncombe attended the meeting - nineteen churches were represented. Thanks to Sally Hutchison for arranging transportation and housing.

The annual meeting of Buncombe Association WMU was held April 22, 1985. The Centennial Year was launched with a historical presentation including costumes of different eras of the one hundred history of North Carolina WMU. It was well presented with Mrs. Zelma Barnes, Centennial Chairman, directing. This meeting was held in the beautiful new sanctuary of the West Asheville Church. Mrs. Dot Allred, first vice-president of North Carolina WMU brought greetings from the State WMU. Miss Laura Frances Snow, missionary to Chile, spoke on Baptist work there. Mrs. Mary-Ellen Garrett led the devotional and prayer time at each session.

More than one hundred women were recognized as having been members of WMU for 50 years or more. Certificates, prepared by Robert Barnes, were presented to them. The meeting was well attended by 227 people representing 40 churches. An offering of \$166.70 was taken to help with GA Camp at Bear Walla. A scholarship of \$125.00 was presented to Alan Gore, student at Fruitland.

A fellowship supper for Mission Friends leaders was held at Black Mountain First Baptist Church on May 17, 1985. Mrs. Jeanette Cloud, Mission Friends Director for the Associational WMU, taught the book, To Listen, To Love.

Edwina Messer reported a good GA Camp at Bear Walla July 22-26, 1985. There were 120 girls in attendance, 70 of these from the Buncombe Association. She reported 14 conversions and 30 rededications.

A tea and reception was held on Sunday, July 28 at the Baptist Building to honor Paula Settle who had been appointed as Foreign Missionary to Togo, Africa.

The Associational WMU Leadership Conference was held at West Asheville Church September 23, 1985 with 147 in attendance from 33 churches.

On November 24, 1985 the WMU assisted with a tea honoring Mrs. Martha Hicks, Church Development Director of the Buncombe Baptist Association, who was retiring December 31. Martha had been very helpful as ex-officio member of the WMU Council, as well as Music Director for WMU.

On January 8, 1986 many churches in Buncombe Association celebrated the Centennial birthday of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina. Good reports were given from these meetings.

In addition to the above history of WMU in Buncombe Association, the Business Women's Circles organized a Business Women's Federation which served to greatly enlarge WMU work in the association. This history would not be complete without including the activities of this organization.

BUSINESS WOMEN'S CIRCLES
AND
BUNCOMBE BUSINESS WOMEN'S FEDERATION
1951-1960

The Southwide WMU, realizing the importance of enlisting women who were engaged in gainful occupations in ever increasing numbers, began organizing Business Women's Circles. Sporadic efforts to organize Business Women's Circles had been made in North Carolina.

Mrs. J. Ben Eller, State Stewardship Chairman, tells of the first Business Women's Federation in North Carolina. The Piedmont Association, where Mrs. Eller was WMU Superintendent, was first to organize in 1944. Miss Mary Currin, State Executive Secretary, encouraged these. However, progress was slow.

Miss Ruth Provence succeeded Miss Currin as State Executive Secretary of WMU. Miss Provence, with enthusiasm that could not

be dampened, enlisted further the Baptist Women in Federations. Many new Business Women's Circles were formed and 14 Federations were functioning in 1951 when more than 500 women gathered in Charlotte for the annual banquet in conjunction with the annual WMU meeting.

A book on file in the Buncombe Baptist Building gives complete minutes of the Baptist Business Women's Federation in Buncombe Association. The organizational meeting was on February 20, 1951, at First Baptist Church, Asheville, and in an Executive meeting of the Federation August 6, 1960 a decision was made to discontinue the Federation. The Federation functioned for 9 years.

The following highlights are included in the history of the Buncombe Associational WMU:

On February 20, 1951 a dinner meeting was held at First Baptist Church, Asheville. Mrs. John Waycaster, State WMU Field Worker, spoke on "The Witness of Business Women." Mrs. Perry Crouch, using the topic "Training our Witnesses," gave information on all our seminaries and stated that a new seminary was to be established in North Carolina at Wake Forest.

A vote was taken to organize a Federation for Buncombe Baptist Association. The name given was "Buncombe Business Women's Federation." It was decided there would be a meeting each quarter. The third Monday night in the middle quarter would be the date, and a meeting was scheduled in the Pine Room of the S & W Cafeteria on Patton Avenue. A committee was formed to frame the Constitution and By-Laws.

The following officers were elected: President, Miss Thelma Stepp, Grace Baptist; Secretary, Miss Callie Sue Harkins, Craven Street Church; Treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Blankenship, Fairview Church; Community Missions Chairman, Mrs. E. E. Fullgham, West Asheville Church; Mission Study Chairman, Mrs. B. R. Bellflower, Calvary Church; Literature Chairman, Mrs. Gordon Johnson, Weaver-ville Church.

The second meeting on May 15, 1951 at the S & W showed interest with 53 present from eight churches. Two other officers

were added at this meeting: First Vice-President, Miss Althea Hensley, Grace Church; Second Vice-President, Ruth Chambers, Asheville First Church. The minutes state that Mrs. Austin Thompson served as advisor for several years.

At the May 15 meeting a program was presented by Mars Hill College students, mostly "missionaries' kids." They were Don Wells, James Gillespie, George Balsam, Arthur Gillespie, Bob Owens, Alice York, and Tommy Payne.

The business session indicated efforts were being made to organize Business Women's Circles at Emmanuel and Merrimon Avenue churches. Plans were made for different circles to visit Oteen Hospital, Roger Cottage, Zephyr Hill and Violet Hill Sanatoriums.

At the second meeting plans were made to buy graduation clothes for two girls in school at Crossnore. At a later meeting Dr. Mary Martin Sloop of Crossnore School, who had recently been voted "American Mother of the Year," was the speaker.

At the February 12, 1952 meeting the following were present: Mrs. Gordon Maddry, State WMU President; Mrs. Foy J. Farmer of Raleigh; and Miss Ruth Provence, State WMU Executive Secretary.

Some Community Missions projects for 1952, with Miss Lucille Fitzgerald as Chairman, were as follows:

- A shower of food for the Personal Guidance Council
- Stamps and stationery for men at Oteen Hospital
- Clothing for needy families
- Gowns for patients at the Orthopedic Hospital
- Plans for prayer meeting at a "colored" nursing home.

On November 11, 1952 Miss Callie Sue Gilreath gave a report of the State Federation meeting she had attended. She reported that North Carolina now had 14 Federations and that all were represented at the meeting.

Mrs. Charles Robinson taught a book at the November 11 meeting entitled The Bible and Stewardship.

A change of meeting time from Monday to Thursday seemed good as there were 75 in attendance on July 15, 1954. Miss Ruth Provence, Executive Director of the State WMU, was the speaker.

The meeting November 9, 1954 had 76 present with 10 churches represented. Rev. Edwin Dozier, missionary to Japan, was the speaker.

Mrs. W. B. Sprinkle, a faithful member of the Federation whose name appeared in many of the minutes, was elected advisor of the group on August 9, 1955.

Many of the meetings were held at the S & W Cafeteria on Patton Avenue and Tingles Cafe on Broadway. Later they met in various churches. The group grew until a meeting place was difficult to find. The Federation began with 53 present from eight churches. Interest had grown until on November 13, 1956 the minutes stated 139 members were present from 14 churches.

Many good mission projects were carried out by the women of the Federation, one of which was to buy a water pump for Nigeria. The women raised \$85 to cover the cost. Rev. John McGee, missionary to Nigeria, had spoken to them and revealed this need.

Miss Vonnie Lance, Buncombe Association WMU Director, spoke to the Federation on November 19, 1957. She stated that WMU was abolishing the idea of Business Women's Circles. The women, not yet willing to disband, voted to change their title to "Buncombe Baptist Federation of Missionary Women."

The State Federation of Baptist Women was dissolved in March 1959. "In light of the plans of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union to make the total program of Woman's Missionary Society available to all women, we recommend that the Federation of Baptist Business Women of North Carolina WMU be discontinued and that we unitedly give full cooperation to this program." (from Magnificent Nobility by Kate Maddry Crouch, p. 36).

Following the annual banquet of the Federation, these women joined the women in annual session of the State WMU at First Baptist Church, Durham.

An Executive Committee meeting was held August 6, 1960 for the purpose of discussing whether or not to continue a federation. Since it was no longer part of the State WMU program, and since some problems were being encountered relative to attendance and to meeting places, it was considered wise not to continue meeting. Therefore, a resolution was passed that the Buncombe Baptist Federation of Missionary Women be temporarily discontinued, that officers and members of the Federation give additional time to their own churches, and that the women become more active in the Buncombe Association WMU. The secretary was asked to seek permission to file minutes of the Federation with other WMU records of the Associational office.

Women who served as President of Buncombe Business Women's Federation:

Miss Thelma Stepp	1951	Mrs. Austin Thompson	1956
Miss Callie Sue Gilreath	1952	Mrs. Callie Sue Harkins	1957
Miss Callie Sue Gilreath	1953	Mrs. Callie Sue Harkins	1958
Miss Althea Hensley	1954	Miss Mary Francis	1959
Mrs. Austin Thompson	1955	Miss Mary Francis	1960

Space will not permit all names who held office in the Federation. However, the following names appeared many times in the minutes as officers other than President:

Miss Donna Britt, Phyllis Meroney, Mrs. Arnold Emory, Miss Lucille Fitzgerald, Miss Pauline Sluder, Miss Nell Sprinkle, Katherine Sprinkle, Miss Alice Brown, Mrs. Lillian Goforth, Mrs. B. R. Bellflower, Mrs. Paul Jones, and Mrs. Paunee Byrd.

Some outstanding speakers and missionaries used during the eight years of the Federation:

Mrs. John Waycaster, North Carolina WMU Field Worker
 Mrs. Gordon Maddry, North Carolina WMU President
 Miss Ruth Provence, North Carolina WMU Executive Secretary
 Miss Olive Lawton, missionary to Formosa
 Rev. Neely, missionary to Venezuela
 Mrs. Euel Payne, missionary to the Cherokee Indians
 Rev. Edwin Dozier, missionary to Japan
 Miss Iris Wilson, missionary to Chile
 Rev. Deaver Lawton, missionary to Japan

Miss Bertha Brevard, retired missionary
Mrs. John Abernathy, missionary to Korea
Dr. Mary Lee, Korea
Mrs. Yasuno Ohnishi, Japan, studying at Mars Hill College
Rev. and Mrs. John McGee, missionaries to Nigeria
Miss Lydia Green, missionary to Singapore, Malaya
Mr. and Mrs. Ned Wheeler, missionaries to Peru

Churches listed in the minutes with women who were members
of the Federation:

Arden	Hominy
Asheville First	Liberty
Berea	Merrimon Avenue
Beverly Hills	Mount Carmel
Black Mountain First	Newbridge
Biltmore	Oteen
Buckeye	Patton Avenue
Calvary	Pole Creek
Craven Street	Reed Memorial
Cumberland Avenue	Ridgeway
Deaverview	Riverside
Edgewood	Swannanoa First
Emma	Weaverville
Enka	West Asheville
Fairview	White Rock
Grace	

Thus, in this Centennial year, 1986, we in the WMU of Buncombe Association, look back with pride to those early leaders who were such a vital part of our WMU heritage. We thank God for those who were committed and served in Buncombe, the state and southwide organizations. We commit ourselves to follow in their footsteps as we begin the next 100 years of planning and promoting WMU work.

WMU SUPERINTENDENTS (NOW CALLED WMU DIRECTORS) WHO SERVED IN
BUNCOMBE ASSOCIATION:

1908-1911 - Unknown

Miss Annie Logan - 1911-1924 (resigned 1924 after serving 13
years)

Miss Amy Carter - 1924 (picture not available)

1925-1926 - Unknown

Mrs. J. G. Greenwood - 1927 (picture not available)

1928 - Unknown

WMU report given by A. D. Stover, Superintendent - 1929

Mrs. J. M. Justice, Assoc. Supt. presided 1930 (pic. not available)

Mrs. George Pennell - 1931-1932

Mrs. C. W. Shope - 1933 (picture not available)

Mrs. Carl Renfro - 1933 (picture not available)

Mrs. D. C. Martin - 1934-1936

Mrs. O. V. Hines (formerly Miss Annie Logan) - 1937

Mrs. D. C. Martin - 1938-1939

Mrs. J. O. Crenshaw - 1940

Mrs. D. L. Holland - 1941

Mrs. Fred Womack - 1942

Mrs. D. C. Martin - 1943-1944

Mrs. John L. Tiller - 1945

Mrs. Tiller (moved), Mrs. Harry Brown (Associate Superintendent
served until April annual meeting then Mrs. O. J. Hagler
elected. She moved to Carthage, N.C. in August)

Mrs. Tom Walters - 1947-1948 (picture not available)

Mrs. W. B. Sprinkle - 1950-1954

Mrs. Charles Jollay served as Associate Superintendent and gave
report - 1955 (picture not available)

Mrs. E. B. Sullivan - 1956 (picture not available)

Miss Vonnice Lance - 1957-1962

Mrs. A. T. Usher - 1963-1965

Mrs. W. T. Hodge - 1966-1968

Miss Pauline Snelson - 1969-1970

Mrs. W. B. Sprinkle - 1971-1972

Mrs. Robert Barnes - 1973-1977

Mrs. Bruce Hollingsworth - 1978-1979

Mrs. T. H. Whitaker - 1980

Mrs. James Calvin - 1981-1982

Mrs. Margaret Stamey - 1983

Mrs. Pauline Snelson - 1984-1985

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION
BUNCOMBE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS 1985-1986

DIRECTOR: Miss Pauline Snelson, P.O. Box 454, Weaverville 28787,
645-3153

ASSOC. DIR: Mrs. Margaret (Glenn) Stamey, 70 Stamey Rd., Candler
28715, 667-3809

SECRETARY; Mrs. Geneva J. Duckett, Rt. 1, Box 330-6, Leicester
28748, 683-3936

MISSION ACTION DIR.: Mrs. Kathy (Paul) Price, 1055 Riverside
Drive, Asheville 28804, 254-0419

ENLARGEMENT/ENLISTMENT DIR: Mrs. Sally (W.G.) Hutchison, 185
Bear Creek Rd., Asheville 28806, 254-0131

REPRESENTATIVE WMU STATE BOARD: Mrs. Dot (James) Calvin, Rt.
3, Box 469, Candler 28715, 667-9656

SPECIAL PROJECTS: Mrs. Grace (Paul) Jones, 42 Gracelyn Rd., Ashe-
ville 28804, 253-9537

BAPTIST WOMEN DIR.: Mrs. Teena (Joe) Strange, P.O. Box 345, Enka
28728, 667-4176

ASST. BW DIR.: Mrs. Jean (Bruce) Hollingsworth, Rt. 6, Box 378,
Candler 28715, 667-2941

BAPTIST YOUNG WOMEN DIR:

ACTEENS DIR.: Mrs. Miriam (Jimmie) Dillingham, P.O. Box 1273,
Arden 28704, 684-3664

GA DIR.: Mrs. Edwina (Fred) Messer, Rt. 2, Box 280, Asheville
28805, 298-6464

MISSION FRIENDS DIR.: Mrs. Jeanette (Rex) Cloud, 104 Pine Tree
Drive, Black Mountain 28711, 669-8385

MUSIC DIR.: Mrs. Martha Hicks, 80 Sulphur Springs Rd., Asheville
28806, 252-1257

ORGANIST: Mrs. Susan (Roger) Ward, 980 Hendersonville Rd., Ashe-
ville 28803, 274-0135

DISTRICT LEADERS:

NORTH BUNCOMBE: Mrs. Denise (Danny) Allison, 24 Wildwood Ave.,
Weaverville 28787, 645-5153

ASHEVILLE: Mrs. Augusta Self, 23 Green Oak Rd., Asheville 28804,
253-2974

MOUNT CARMEL: Miss Stella Carter, 160 Hillside St., Asheville
28801, 254-2038
WEST ASHEVILLE: Mrs. Mae (Hamp) Brown, 82 Herron Ave., Asheville
28806, 253-1395
ENKA-HOMINY: Mrs. Peggy McClure, Rt. 5, Box 507, Candler 28715,
667-8638
BILTMORE: Mrs. Carolyn (James) Sparrow, Rt. 1, Box 190, Arden
28704, 684-9573
FAIRVIEW: Mrs. Shirley (Robert) Dilliveg, Rt. 1, Box 1060, Fair-
view 28730, 628-3130
SWANNANOA: Mrs. Bertha Surrett, 408 Padgettown Rd., Black Mountain
28711, 669-7485
OTEEN: Mrs. Stella (Gayle) Brown, 10 Pleasant Ridge Dr., Asheville
28805, 298-4111

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Zelma Barnes, Chairman
Mrs. Dot Calvin
Mrs. Marjorie Clark
Miss Pauline Snelson, Ex-officio
Mrs. Martha Hicks, Ex-officio

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Dot Calvin, Chairman
Mrs. Jeanette Cloud
Mrs. Marjorie Clark
Mrs. Teena Strange
Mrs. Nancy Owen
Miss Pauline Snelson, Ex-officio
Mrs. Martha Hicks, Ex-officio



SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Buncombe Baptist Association Minutes

Buncombe Baptist Association History of 1982

Hitherto by Foy F. Farmer

Magnificent Nobility by Kate C. Maddry

Baptist Women's Federation Minutes

Associational WMU Council Minutes



